

How To Stay Free Inside

*"Our Declaration Of Dependence", Part 2 of 2
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*"Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the Good News of Christ."
(Galatians 1:7b, NIV)*

***To be free requires a ___ PERSONAL DECISION ___.**

To stay free requires ___ PERSISTENT DETERMINATION ___.

*"It was for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again."
(Galatians 5:1, NASB)*

3 Ways To Maintain Your Freedom (From Galatians, NASB)

I) DEFEND YOUR ___ BEHAVIORAL ___ FREEDOM: REACTING TO WHAT OTHERS EXPECT OF YOU.

"But it was because of the false brothers who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage." (Galatians 2:4)

***Guard against being a ___ CONFORMIST ___:**

"But we did not yield into subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel (Good News) might remain with you." (Galatians 2:5)

"For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I was trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ." (Galatians 1:10)

***Principle: To stay free, be content to ___ PLEASE GOD FIRST ___.**

II) DEFEND YOUR ___ PERSONAL ___ FREEDOM: LIVING OUT WHAT WE EXPECT OF OURSELVES.

"You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?... After beginning with [God's] Spirit, are you now trying to attain perfection by human effort?" (Galatians 3:1-3, NEB)

***Guard against being a ___ PERFECTIONIST ___:**

"Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for the righteous man shall live by faith." (Galatians 3:11)

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."
(2 Corinthians 12:9)*

***Principle: To stay free, rest in ___ GOD'S SUFFICIENT GRACE ___.**

III) DEFEND YOUR ___ SPIRITUAL ___ FREEDOM: UNDERSTANDING WHAT GOD EXPECTS OF YOU.

"... when you did not know God, you were slaves... Now that you know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved all over again?" (Galatians 4:8-9)

***Guard against being a ___ LEGALIST ___:**

"They are trying to make themselves look good enough to gain God's favor by keeping laws and customs-- but that is not God's way... they don't understand that Christ gives to those who trust Him, everything they are trying to get by keeping His laws! Christ ends all of that!" (Romans 10:3-4, LB)

***Principle: To stay free, trust in ___ CHRIST'S WORK NOT YOURS ___.**

"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed!" (John 8:36)